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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5095th meeting of the Security Council, held on 7 December 2004, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its very deep concern at multiple reports of military operations by the Rwandan army in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and at threats by the Government of Rwanda in this regard. It recalls its adherence to the respect for the sovereignty of all States, and underlines that the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of any State is contrary to the purposes and principles stated in the Charter of the United Nations.

"The Security Council strongly condemns any and all such military action, recalling that they are contrary to its resolutions, and in particular to resolution 1565 (2004), by which it urged each of the governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, to ensure that the territory of its country was not used to infringe the sovereignty of the others.

"The Security Council demands that the Government of Rwanda withdraw without delay any forces it may have in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and calls on all States in the region to refrain from any action or statement that contravenes international law, undermines the already fragile stability in the region, or the transitional process supported by the international community.

"The Security Council notes that these reported events and threats, are contrary to all peace agreements, declarations and protocols signed by regional States since the 1998 commencement of hostilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It underlines that these events and threats, arising after the international Conference on the Great Lakes of Africa, are contrary to the commitments taken by the regional Heads of State, in the Declaration adopted in Dar es Salaam on 20 November 2004, to settle their disputes in a peaceful manner, and are all the more unacceptable.

"The Security Council calls on all governments in the region, to commit themselves to and make full use of multilateral mechanisms they have agreed to establish, including the Joint Verification Mechanism and the Tripartite

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Commission, for the peaceful resolution of their disputes. It further calls on the Government of Rwanda, as well as all governments in the region, to devote their resources to the promotion of peace, stability, democracy and development.

"The Security Council urges all Member States fully to comply with their obligations under resolution 1493 (2003), which imposed an arms embargo in the district of Ituri and the provinces of North and South Kivu.

"The Security Council recognizes that continued tension in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo undermines peace and security in the region, and in particular that the presence of ex-FAR and Interahamwe elements in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo is a source of instability, a threat to civilian populations and an impediment to good neighbourly relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. It considers the armed presence and activities of ex-FAR and Interahamwe elements in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to be unacceptable and demands that they disarm and disband without delay, with a view to their repatriation or resettlement.

"In this regard, the Security Council welcomes steps taken to set up the plan established by the Congolese authorities, with the support of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, aimed at accelerating the disarmament and demobilization of foreign armed groups. It calls on the Governments of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to explore ways to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of these combatants, based on the existing mechanisms. It urges the Congolese authorities to do all possible to effectively disarm these armed groups as a matter of urgency, in the interest of stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the security of Rwanda and Burundi, and the establishment of peace and stability in the region.

"The Security Council further calls in this regard on the Congolese authorities to accelerate the integration of the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and encourages the donor community to provide coordinated financial and technical assistance to this important task.

"The Security Council condemns any attempt aimed at undermining the unity and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"The Security Council expresses its intention to consider further actions, including measures, that may be taken against those individuals who, by their actions or statements, compromise the peace and transition process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo."